

~~Stalin, Svetlana~~
CIA4 (India)

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'Twenty Letters To a Friend'

On Sunday the New York Times begins running excerpts of "Twenty Letters to a Friend," the autobiographical book by Mrs. Svetlana Alliluyeva, the only daughter of the late Josef Stalin. No book has ever caused such an advance sensation in publishing circles in the United States, with the possible exception of William Manchester's highly controversial "The Death of a President." The 80,000-word-long book represents more than \$2.5 million in first serial rights and advance book royalties.

American and English publishers have advanced publication dates from October 16 to October 2 because they fear that unauthorized European publishers may have portions of the book. A pirated manuscript appeared in July in England and West Germany, where it was sold by the Soviet journalist and entrepreneur, Victor Louis, to publications competing with those which already had paid dearly for the original rights.

International Life, a Moscow magazine, has charged that the American Central Intelligence Agency ghost-wrote Mrs. Alliluyeva's memoirs. The Russian magazine further said that the CIA was planning to use the memoirs as the highlight of a flood of "pulp literature" to be disseminated in Russia to spoil the 50th anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution on November 7. But it was Mrs. Alliluyeva herself who very aptly explained the true reason for publishing the book when she arrived in the United States last April: "The publication of my book will symbolize for me the main purpose of my journey here . . . the freedom of self-expression."